

CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLETTER

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PROTESTANTS AND OTHER AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

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Attend THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHURCH & STATE
February 1, 1951, at Constitution Hall, Washington, D. C.

NOVEMBER 1950

Regional Office Established In Chicago; Others Planned

November 1—the day following Reformation Day, appropriately enough—was the date of the formal opening of the Chicago Regional Office of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State. This, the first POAU regional office to be established, marks the initial step in POAU's plan of opening a network of such offices throughout the country, so that all Americans everywhere may have a dependable agency on church-state relations in their own area, to which they may turn when violations of religious liberty occur. The Chicago office is located at 1524, Kimball Building.

Launching their activities with a reception and tea in commemoration of the birth and life of Martin Luther, the Chicago leaders are making preparations for a greatly stepped-up program of action on behalf of POAU's objectives. As we go to press, the reception and tea has been scheduled for Sunday, November 12, at the Fine Arts Building, Alliance Francaise, with proceeds to go to the Chicago POAU Chapter. The Rev. William A. Dunlap, minister of the Buena Memorial Presbyterian Church, will address the gathering.

Chapter leaders Amanda MacDonald, Wilma Reynolds Riley and Irma D. Carpenter are serving on the planning committee.

ARCHER, MAYNE TALK ON CURRENT NEEDS

Glenn L. Archer, POAU executive director, and John C. Mayne, director of promotion and organization, addressed church groups recently on current threats to religious liberty and methods of combatting them. Archer spoke before the Men's Brotherhood of the Takoma Park (Md.) Baptist Church, with James R. Kautz, Jr., presiding; and Mayne delivered a talk on "Religious Freedom—Our Precious Heritage" before the young adult group of the National City Christian Church, Washington, D. C., with the Rev. David C. Rowand, host pastor, presiding.

Toronto Relaxes Curbs, Val d'Or Enforces Them

The City Council of Toronto, Can., has lifted a 40-year-old ban on religious meetings in Toronto parks, originally imposed because of physical strife between some sects. The parks committee, in recommending repeal of the ban, pointed out that Sunday sports are now allowed in the parks, and there is no valid reason for prohibiting religious gatherings. Groups wishing to meet will nevertheless have to secure a permit from the Parks Commissioner. Mayor Hiram McCallum said that this is a precaution designed to prevent meetings by "subversive" groups. The Council also announced that it will open all its future meetings with the Lord's Prayer.

Toronto's liberalized policy is more than offset, however, by the continuing and relentless persecution of Baptist evangelists who attempt to hold street corner meetings at Val d'Or, Quebec. As we go to press, the number of Regular Baptists ministers who have been arrested on "traffic" or "disorderly conduct" charges has risen to 34, with no end in sight. To make matters worse, town officials have warned the evangelists that in the future they "may not be able to control the crowd," and that "the town of Val d'Or will not be responsible for accidents that may happen to you. . . ."

New Orleans Group Hears Dr. Williams on Schools



Dr. Williams

American Education Week, Nov. 5-11, will be highlighted in New Orleans by a public meeting of citizens of many faiths in Masonic Hall on Nov. 10, with Dr. Charl Ormond Williams, past president of the National Education Association and member of POAU's executive committee, delivering the principal address. As we go to press, all signs point to a large turn-out of parents, educators, ministers and laymen for the event.

Speaking at the invitation of Grand Master F. E. Brigtsen of the Kadosh Lodge, Dr. Williams will devote much of her talk to an analysis of current threats to public education and the necessity of preserving the principle of "public funds for public schools only."

Court "Punishes" Boys With Go-to-Church Order

Twelve teen-age boys were recently "sentenced" by Miss Genevieve Taylor, court referee in Franklin County, Columbus, O., to attend church every Sunday for the next six months because they participated in a high school fraternity drinking party. They will also have to join some group or organization which does civic work during the probationary period.

FCC Ponders Constitutionality Of Church-Owned Radio Stations

Does the First Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibit the federal government from granting a license to a religious organization to operate a radio station for proselytizing purposes? The Federal Communications Commission is faced with this question in connection with several applications for licenses which have recently come before it, but it has deferred formulation of a definitive policy pending further study.

The commission has declined to reconsider a license application by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, a Mormon group with headquarters at Independence, Mo., which had been turned down earlier "because of the presently undetermined applicability of the First Amendment to licensing radio stations for religious purposes." This case was complicated by two other factors—one member of the church's governing council is an Australian citizen, and the Federal Communications Act bars the licensing of stations which would have alien stockholders; and the church is not incorporated, as is customarily required of radio station licensees.

Channel in Demand

The channel sought by the Mormon group was also sought by the Rev. Wendell Zimmerman, pastor of the Kansas City Baptist Temple. Although several fellow clergymen of Kansas City opposed his application on the ground that he had been a supporter of the notorious Gerald L. K. Smith in his anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic campaigns, the FCC did not rule on this point, but denied the application because Zimmerman's financial accounts were not properly audited, and he had experienced difficulty in filing federal income tax returns. (RNS)

SUNDAY LAWS CALLED UNFAIR TO MINORITIES

Efforts of public authorities to force uniform observance of Sunday as the legal Sabbath day have been condemned as a violation of religious freedom by spokesmen for Jewish and Seventh-day Adventist groups. Protests against such laws were made recently in New York City and in Dallas, Tex.

In New York, the issue is slated to come before the State Court of Appeals, following the conviction and appeal of two butchers who sold meat on Sunday, in violation of Section 2147 of the State Penal Law. Leo Pfeffer, attorney for the defendants and for eleven Jewish organizations which are supporting them in the test case, has attacked the consti-

tutionality of the law on the grounds that it is an infringement upon religious liberty and a denial of equal protection of the laws.

Texas Case

In Dallas, the Rev. Herbert Christensen of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church has assailed a move by the Dallas Retail Grocers Association, backed by Baptist and Methodist pastor associations, to force closing of Dallas grocery stores on Sunday.

"No one," he said, "has the right to propose legislation on the basis of religion or on the basis of a majority.

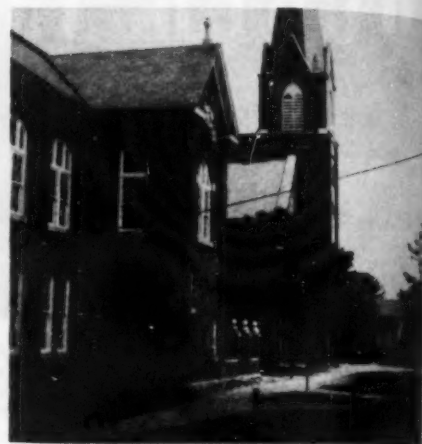
"... The only reason that anyone closes on Sunday is religious. This then becomes a religious issue... if enforced it would certainly encroach upon civil and religious rights of the individual."

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RALLIES EXTENDED OVER WIDE AREA

Because of the fine quality of the Religious Liberty Rallies being held in the Capital Area, the decision has been made to set up these meetings in a much wider territory. "Let Freedom Ring" is a theme suggested for these rallies by the Rev. Dr. Edward B. Willingham, minister of the National Baptist Memorial Church in his stirring address at a community rally in historic Alexandria, Virginia. Other rallies have already been held, or are being planned for Takoma Park, Bethesda, Arlington, Brookland, and the downtown area of Washington, the POAU organization director, John C. Mayne, announced.

POAU is assisting local Church groups, ministerial associations, councils, and POAU members committees to plan and set up Religious Liberty Rallies, especially in the eastern seaboard area. Speakers will be suggested, publicity aids will be given, and educational literature will be furnished to groups desiring such meetings. The holding of such rallies serves to bring before indifferent citizens the dangers which threaten religious liberty in America and elsewhere.

"PUBLIC" SCHOOL



St. George's School (above) at Linn, Osage County, Mo., has an enrollment made up exclusively of Roman Catholic children, yet it has been supported with public funds. The non-Catholic children of Linn are sent to a legally established public school which is not, like St. George's, attached to a church and marked with religious symbols both outside and in. Improvement in the situation has been promised by the Linn school board, which voted recently to discharge teaching nuns from the public payroll, following the filing of a court suit (in which Osage was one of four counties named) by the Missouri Association for Free Public Schools, a POAU affiliate. Art. I, Section 6, of the Missouri Constitution implies that religious segregation of public school children is illegal, and states: "... that no preference shall be given... any church, sect or creed of religion..."

"CATHOLICS—ATTENTION!"

"The Protestants, as is natural, are spreading their doctrines by means of cheap Bibles, books, tracts, etc. Catholics ought to ignore these worthless publications; remember that it is a mortal sin to retain them and to read them. They can be, and should be received, but only to destroy them; and rich Catholics ought to buy many of these leaflets in order to stop their distribution among the uninformed and to burn them as a testimony to the only teacher of truth, THE CHURCH."—notice published in the Bolivian newspaper, *Hoja Dominical*.

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Movement Grows to Limit Tax Exemption of Church Properties

Long-established federal and state policies of tax exemption for church and university-owned properties have come under increasing fire in recent months, with Congress, church groups, laymen and public administrators joining in the demand for limitation of such exemptions. At the same time, fierce opposition to any change in existing practices has come from certain clergymen, particularly the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

The notorious case of New York University's macaroni factory—which, as the property of an "educational" institution, had enjoyed tax exemption—was dealt with by the Federal Bureau of Internal Revenue in a successful suit to compel payment of taxes on the factory's profits. In addition, Congress, in preparing new tax legislation, has moved to close "loopholes" so that such enterprises will not in the future escape taxation.

On the other hand, a recent move towards "loophole"-closing by county supervisors of Los Angeles, Calif., has met with determined resistance from the Los Angeles diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, partly supported by some Protestant leaders. Last summer, the county counsel's office announced that certain "non-profit" properties which had been favored with reduced tax assessments would no longer be so favored, because the law did not allow for such reductions. Spokesmen for the diocese argue, however, that this action is a "misinterpretation" of the law, and will more than double the amount of taxes paid by charitable agencies.

Wisconsin Resolution

Elsewhere in the nation, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities has asked the state legislature to revise present exemptions from general property taxes. Religious, educational and veterans' organizations are the chief beneficiaries of the exemptions.

The state synod of South Dakota Presbyterians has adopted a resolution declaring that non-profit institutions are entitled to tax exemptions only for "such properties as are used solely for normal non-profit functions of such institutions," and the institutions should be required to submit reports on profits and losses to the state auditor, with the reports to be open for public inspection. This stand was in agreement with that taken earlier in various Protestant circles (see *Church and State Newsletter*, February, 1950).

A Minnesota supreme court decision has held that "when a building is owned by a charitable institution and one sub-

stantial part thereof is occupied for the purpose for which it was organized, and other substantial part is used for rental to the public, the rental portion should be pro-rated for tax purposes." The case before the court involved property owned by the Christian Business Men's Committee, Inc.

In the Philippine Islands, recent government action to impose taxes on profits made by the University of Santo Tomas is being fought vigorously by the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The university is owned by the Dominican order.

Tremendous Throngs Attend Reformation Day Services

Hundreds of American cities celebrated Reformation Day by holding community services and Festivals of Faith. Reformation Day was October 31, and recalls the protest of Martin Luther against the abuses of the Roman Church, symbolized in nailing the 95 theses to the Church door in Wittenberg.

United groups of Protestant churches sponsored great meetings, several of which had more than 10,000 in attendance. In the national capital, more than 10,000 crowded the Uline Arena to hear the Rev. Dr. Robert J. McCracken, of Riverside Church, New York—and more than 3,000 were turned away.

Noted speakers throughout the nation emphasized the part which all freedom-loving Americans must play in preserving our religious liberties, in the face of threats from totalitarian groups seeking to entrench themselves in America.

POAU aided the Reformation committees of several cities in extending the effectiveness of their services, and strongly urges local committees to make plans now for greater services in 1951.

* * *

A 1916 ordinance prohibiting religious addresses in the public parks of Detroit, Mich., has been upheld by District Court Judge William M. Connell, who imposed a \$5 fine against the Rev. William B. Fowler, a Jehovah's Witness minister, for delivering a Bible lecture in a park.

DAWSON, WILLINGHAM LAUNCH POAU DRIVE

POAU's current series of interdenominational Religious Liberty Rallies in the Greater Washington area was launched recently with meetings in the First Baptist Church of Takoma Park, Md., and the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Va.

The Rev. H. W. Baucom, jr., host pastor, presided at the Takoma Park rally, and introduced as the principal speaker Dr. Joseph M. Dawson, POAU recording secretary and executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, who called for an end to policies of half-heartedness and expediency in dealing with the problems of religious liberty. Faced with grave threats to our hard-won freedom of conscience, America cannot afford to have any "soft spots" in her defenses, he maintained.

Certain Protestants—"by no means a majority"—were chided by Dr. Dawson for saying "that for America they believe in church-state separation now and then, here and there; not with Jefferson in 'a wall of separation which must not be breached.'" These Protestants, he emphasized, give aid and comfort to leaders of the Roman Catholic hierarchy who "candidly confess they do not believe in separation of church and state."

Real Liberty Wanted

Speaking at the Alexandria rally, Dr. Edward B. Willingham, pastor of the National Baptist Memorial Church of Washington, D. C., warned against smug acceptance of mere "toleration" as a substitute for full-fledged religious liberty.

"Religious liberty," he said, "is a cornerstone in our structure which may easily be moved by the subtle substitution of so-called religious toleration. Religious liberty is a right which belongs to every human being. No state, political group, labor organization, economic control, church, or religious hierarchy has the right to 'tolerate' religious practices of others. 'Toleration' is an un-American expression when it comes to religion."

(Cut out and Mail)

HERE IS MY GIFT

Believing in the work you are doing I enclose \$

(Make check payable to "POAU", 1633 Mass. Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

- ☐ I wish to become a member (\$2 or more)
- ☐ Please renew my Membership.
- ☐ Please send free packet of literature.

Name

Mailing Address

Truman Postpones Decision On Ambassador to Vatican

No action on the question of whether or not to appoint a United States ambassador to the Vatican will be taken by President Truman until Congress reconvenes in 1951, a recent United Press report declares, quoting "Administration sources."

The UP story appeared shortly after Myron C. Taylor, formerly the President's "personal representative" at the Holy See, had a 30-minute conference with the Chief Executive. Taylor himself refused to comment on the question after leaving the White House, saying: "Oh really, now! Don't open that subject. Just say I had a visit with the President as usual." He also refused to answer a reporter who asked him whether he still had an office in the State Department.

In the meantime, proponents of the move towards diplomatic recognition of the Vatican continue to exert pressure in every conceivable way—letters to the President, Senators and members of Congress; resolutions by the Knights of Columbus and other Roman Catholic affiliates; and public utterances propagating the idea that the Roman Catholic Church is the only effective anti-Communist force in the world.

Counter-Attack

On the other hand, Protestant leaders have been raising their voices in increasing unison against any diplomatic relationship with the Roman pontiff. Virtually every Protestant denomination has officially recorded its vigorous opposition to the proposal. The following resolution, recently adopted by the Disciples of Christ at their international convention in Oklahoma City, is typical:

"... Resolved, 1. that the International Convention of Disciples of Christ declares its unalterable opposition to the establishment of diplomatic relations with the head of any religious sect, society or church, whether by executive action of the President or within the diplomatic service of the nation; 2. that

it is our conviction that such representation would be a violation of our historic American tradition of separation of church and state . . . ; 3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of State, and to members of the Congress; 4. that local churches, state and district conventions and other gatherings of Disciples of Christ, and individual members of our churches be urged to give serious study to this question and to make known their views to their Senators and representatives in Congress."

POAU urges that all believers in religious liberty take similar action, both individually and in groups.

* * *

Appointment of a Canadian ambassador to the Vatican was opposed by the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada in a resolution adopted at their recent national conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The resolution said such an appointment would imply recognition of the Roman Catholic Church as a temporal power. (RNS)

SCHOOL "DEVOTIONALS" ENDED AFTER PROTEST

The curriculum of Galena Park public schools, Houston, Tex., will no longer include religious devotionals, it was announced recently following protests of two ministers who declared that the practice was unconstitutional.

The Rev. E. W. Matthias, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, called the devotionals "an infringement on religious freedom," and said that they constituted a teaching of religion in the public schools within the meaning of the Supreme Court prohibition in the McCollum Case. The Rev. F. K. Mullendore, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church of Jacinto City—part of which lies within the Galena Park district—expressed a similar conviction. (RNS)

Crowded Conditions Blamed For Bay State Violations

Thirty-three "public" grammar school pupils and 15 "public" high school students have been "withdrawn" by authorities from classes conducted in public schoolrooms of Rochdale, Mass., and sent to Roman Catholic institutions in Worcester, it was revealed recently. Bus transportation and school costs are being borne by the parents of the children involved, the *Worcester Gazette* reported.

According to Schools Superintendent Edmund F. Tierney, "overcrowding" forced the scheduling of grammar school classes in Leicester High School at Rochdale, which consequently became "overcrowded" in turn, leading to the decision to send 33 of the elementary grade children to St. Peter's Parochial School in Worcester. Similar excuses were offered for sending 15 high school students to St. Peter's High School in Worcester.

POAU Leaders Undertake Heavy Speaking Schedule

Members of the national executive and advisory committees of POAU, and staff members, are scheduled to address a number of important groups this fall.

Executive Director Glenn L. Archer will speak at a Religious Liberty mass meeting in Syria Mosque, Pittsburgh, on Nov. 27th. He is heavily scheduled during the fall and winter. John C. Mayne, POAU's director of organization, comes before the Augustana District Lutheran Convention in Washington on November 15th.

POAU's speakers bureau will endeavor to furnish a speaker for your group, in spite of the heavy demand upon leaders. Send your request to Washington headquarters, in care of Mr. Mayne.

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